

IN THE CLAIMS:

Would the Office kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of controlling soilborne pathogens in a soil comprising the step of adding a nitrogen containing material and a pH reducing agent to said soil, said pH reducing agent being present in an amount sufficient to reduce soil pH below 5.5, said nitrogen containing material being present in an amount sufficient to ~~convert said nitrogen containing material to~~ generate nitrous acid to thereby control said soilborne pathogens.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said pH reducing agent is present in an amount sufficient to reduce soil pH below 5.0.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said pH reducing agent is incorporated in said nitrogen containing material.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said nitrogen containing material is selected from a group consisting of animal manures, sewage sludge, animal by-products, chitinaceous materials, oil- seed materials, urea, NH_4x and xNO_2 compounds wherein x is selected from the group consisting of salts of ammonium and salts of nitrite.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said nitrogen containing material is added at a rate of between 200 kg N/hectare and 1000 kg N/hectare.
6. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said nitrogen containing material is an animal manure.

7. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said nitrogen containing material is a meat and bone meal material.
8. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said nitrogen containing material is soya meal.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said nitrogen containing material is applied at a rate of between 400 kg N/hectare and 800 kg N/hectare.
10. (previously amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said nitrogen containing material is applied at a rate of between 600 kg N/hectare and 1000 kg N/hectare.
11. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said pH reducing agent is applied to said soil and said nitrogen containing material and subsequently added to said soil.
12. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said pH reducing agent is added to said soil subsequent to said nitrogen containing material.
13. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said pH reducing agent is selected from a group consisting of sulfuric acid, ascorbic acid, sorbic acid, citric acid, and SO₂.
14. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said pH reducing agent is an organic acid.
15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said organic acid is citric acid.
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (canceled)
19. (canceled)

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4.

20. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 further including the step of measuring the pH of the soil, measuring the buffering capacity of said soil, and adding said nitrogen containing material and said pH reducing agent to said soil when said buffering capacity is below 2 uL H₂SO₄ /g soil.